

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 7-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-4 are amended and Claim 1 is canceled by the present amendment. Claims 7-27 stand withdrawn in response to a prior restriction requirement.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,153,730 to Nagasaki et al. (herein "Nagasaki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,331 to Sansom-Wai et al. (herein "Sansom-Wai"); Claims 2 and 3 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 28 and 29 were allowed.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after final rejection permits entering of amendments, canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2, 3, 28 and 29. Accordingly, Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 2 and 3 are rewritten in independent form and Claim 4 is amended to depend from Claim 28.

Accordingly, Claims 2-4, 28 and 29 are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Zachary S. Stern
Registration No. 54,719

GJM:ZSS\dnf

I:\ATTY\ZS\6318\6318-0022-2\63180022 FINAL AMEND.DOC